

## Information for expecting parents

It is recommended that anyone who will have close contact with the baby has a single dose of pertussis vaccine at some point in their adult life.

This vaccine should be given no less than 2 weeks before contact with the baby. Talk to the baby's grandparents, and all your loved ones, to encourage them in helping to protect your new baby by ensuring their vaccines are up to date.

Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, is a very contagious respiratory illness. It lasts several weeks and causes a mild cold that develops into a violent cough.

Babies are much more likely to get sick from pertussis than other age groups, and are more likely to need admission to hospital, or to have serious complications of pertussis.

## Want more Information?

Speak with your prenatal care provider about getting your vaccine for pertussis.

More information on pertussis can be found on the US Centre for

Disease Control website at: [www.cdc.gov/pertussis](http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis)

## Kingston Health Sciences Centre

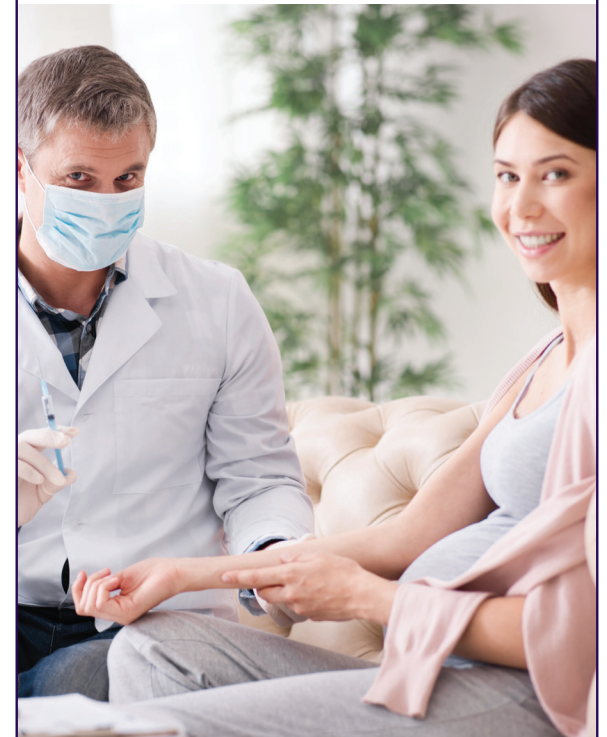
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# Pertussis Vaccination in Pregnancy



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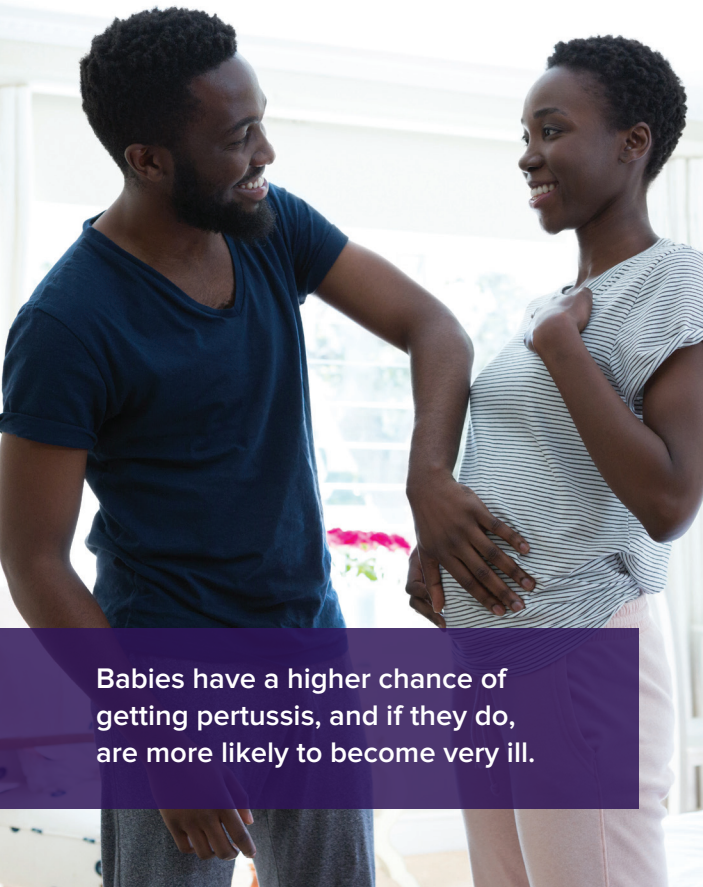
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## How will getting a vaccine while pregnant help my baby?

Babies cannot be vaccinated for pertussis until 2 months of age. They are also vaccinated at 4, 6 and 18 months of age to be fully protected. They are especially vulnerable to pertussis during the first few months of life when their vaccine series is incomplete. By getting the pertussis vaccination between 28 and 30 weeks of each pregnancy, your body will make antibodies to pertussis that will cross the placenta and help to protect your baby. These antibodies will not interfere with the antibodies your baby will make after being vaccinated as an infant.

Vaccination in an earlier pregnancy or within the few years before pregnancy does not provide enough antibodies to cross the placenta and protect your infant.



Babies have a higher chance of getting pertussis, and if they do, are more likely to become very ill.



## What are the risks?

Most people who receive the pertussis vaccination experience some mild pain, redness, or swelling at the vaccine site. A smaller number of people will experience fever or chills, headache, tiredness, stomach upset, aches, or a rash. People may faint after receiving the vaccine. Rarely, people may have a severe allergic reaction.